

ON THE SPIDER SUBFAMILY ZAVATTARICINAE (ARANEAE, GNAPHOSIDAE)

NORMAN I. PLATNICK

Department of Entomology, American Museum of Natural History,
Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, New York 10024

Abstract.—The spider genus *Zavattarica* Caporiacco, and the monogeneric subfamily Zavattaricinae, were based on the supposed presence of a reduced number of spinnerets. However, both described species actually have the normal gnaphosid complement of six spinnerets, and *Zavattarica* Caporiacco is placed as a junior synonym of *Zelotes* Gistel.

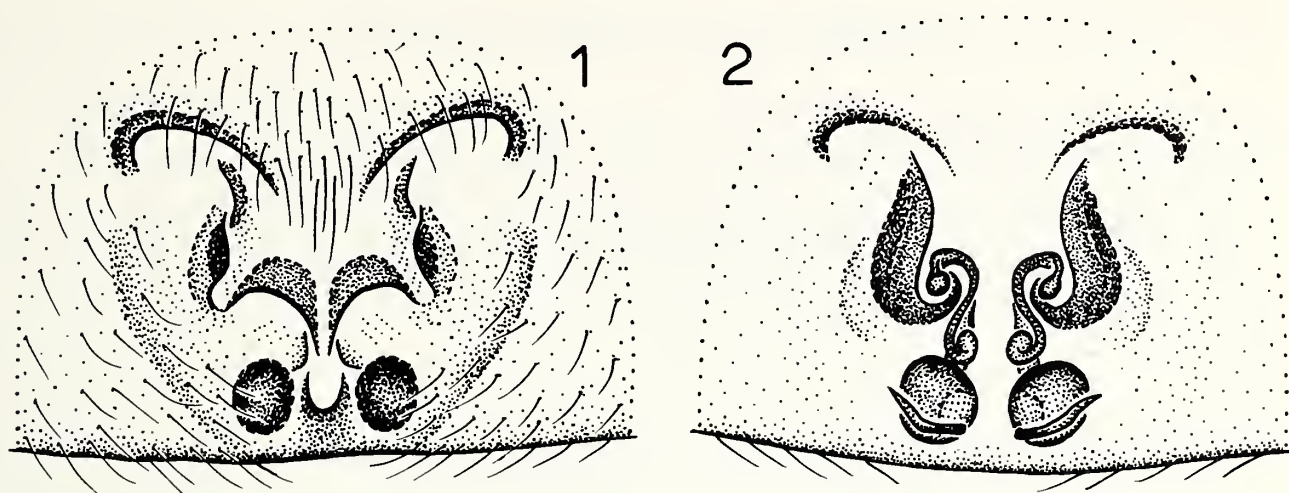
Caporiacco (1941) established a new subfamily of gnaphosid spiders, the Zavattaricinae, for a new genus and species, *Zavattarica bimamillata*, based on a single female from Ethiopia. The new genus and subfamily were said to differ from all other gnaphosids in having only two spinnerets (the “inferiori” or anterior lateral pair). Subsequently, Caporiacco (1947) expanded the diagnosis of the group, describing a second species, *Zavattarica tetramamillata*, based on two females from Tanzania, supposedly differing from the type species and all other gnaphosids in having only four spinnerets (including the “superiores” or posterior lateral pair).

The existence of this subfamily was recognized in the catalog of Roewer (1955), and maintained in the supplement to that catalog by Brignoli (1983). Aside from those catalog citations, however, there seems to have been no significant mention of these taxa in the subsequent literature.

Through the courtesy of Ms. Sarah Mascherini of the Museo Zoologico de “La Specola” in Firenze, Italy, I have recently had the opportunity to examine the holotype of *Z. bimamillata*. During a recent visit to the laboratory of Dr. Vladimir I. Ovtsharenko at the Zoological Institute, USSR Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, I also had the opportunity to examine type material of *Z. tetramamillata*, which had been borrowed by Dr. Ovtsharenko from the Hungarian National Museum in Budapest.

In both cases, Caporiacco’s observations on the spinnerets are simply erroneous. Six spinnerets are present in these specimens. The posterior median and posterior lateral pairs are inconspicuous, because they are partially contracted into the abdomen, but they are clearly present. The spiders have the metatarsal preening combs typical of zelotine gnaphosids (Platnick and Shadab, 1982:figs. 1, 2), and epigyna typical of the genus *Zelotes* Gistel (see figs. 1, 2, prepared with the help of Dr. Mohammad U. Shadab of the American Museum of Natural History). *Zavattarica* is therefore here placed as a junior synonym of *Zelotes*, resulting in the new combinations *Zelotes bimamillatus* (Caporiacco) and *Zelotes tetramamillatus* (Caporiacco).

Although no generally accepted subfamilial classification of gnaphosids exists (Platnick, 1990), the worldwide and extremely speciose complex of genera sharing the metatarsal preening comb (including at least *Zelotes*, *Drassyllus* Chamberlin, *Camillina* Berland, *Trachyzelotes* Lohmander, *Urozelotes* Mello-Leitão, and *Setaphis*



Figs. 1, 2. *Zelotes bimamillatus* (Caporiacco), epigynum. 1. Ventral view. 2. Dorsal view.

Simon) has long been informally recognized as a group. Ironically, Caporiacco's completely baseless subfamilial name Zavattaricinae may live on, for there seems to have been no earlier family-group name based on any of these genera!

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